

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces is being a convex surface; and

a flange ~~that is~~ formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface to be projected in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis ~~and to be continued from said convex surface,~~

wherein said flange is provided with a groove ~~formed on the side of said convex surface that extends from the outer edge of~~ radially extending from said convex surface ~~toward~~ to the outer edge of said flange.

2. (Currently Amended) The lens according to claim 1, wherein said flange includes an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in ~~the~~ an optical axis direction, and wherein said groove is ~~formed so as to cut a~~ cut out of part of said outer and inner ring areas.

3. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of said outer ring area in the optical axis direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

4. (Currently Amended) The lens according to claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ a depth of said groove in the inner ring area is approximately twice the difference between the thickness of the outer ring area in the optical axis direction and the thickness of the inner ring area in the optical axis direction ~~with reference to said inner ring area is about twice the differential step between said outer and inner ring areas.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The lens according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ a width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

6. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 5, wherein the width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is more than twice and less than three times that of said inner ring area.

7. (Currently Amended) The lens according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a width of said groove in ~~the~~ a tangential direction is larger than ~~the~~ a width of said flange in the radial direction.

8. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 7, wherein the width of said groove in the tangential direction is smaller than twice the width of said flange in the radial direction.

9. (New) The lens according to claim 1, wherein said groove is configured for allowing removal of excess coating solution applied to the lens.

10. (New) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove extending from said convex surface toward an outer edge of said flange, said flange includes an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in an optical axis direction, and said groove is cut out of part of said outer and inner ring areas.

11. (New) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove extending from said convex surface toward an outer edge of said flange, and the width of said groove in the tangential direction is smaller than twice the width of said flange in the radial direction.